

OHHA NEWS



April 2017

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Gaming & Racing,
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2017 Racing Dates

Northfield Park
Jan. 1 - Dec. 30
(222 Live Days)

Miami Valley Gaming
Jan 6 to May 8
(87 live days)

Scioto Downs
May 9 - Sept. 9
(90 live days)

Hollywood at
Dayton Raceway
Sept. 12 - Dec. 30
(75 live days)

Important Dates

OSRC Monthly Meeting
April 24 10 a.m.
Columbus Riffe Center
Room 1960
77 S. High St.,
Columbus, Ohio

OHHA Board Meetings
Thursday, April 27
Friday, July 2
Wednesday, October 25
Locations TBA

Cover photo from
Hagemeyer Farms

OHHA Offers Fantasy League

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) is proud to offer a new and exciting promotional tool to harness racing. The 2017 Ohio Harness Racing Fantasy League is being offered this summer that will provide a fun, no cost endeavor into owning a harness racing stable. This fantasy racing league has been created to encourage the casual fan to become more involved in the harness racing industry by following their own fantasy stable of horses throughout the summer and fall to promote racing in an exciting and positive way.

Horsemen are encouraged to share this opportunity and could win some great prizes by referring people to sign up! To encourage current industry people to tell their friends and acquaintances about the contest, the following will be put into place.

For every person that a current horseman refers, the person referring (must be noted at the time of entry on the entry blank) will get 1 entry into a drawing. The more unique people referred, the more entries they receive. Drawing will be held after all fantasy stable entries are received and will be held on Facebook live.

* First Referring Prize (choose 1 of three)- Choice of two nights lodging and a \$100 clubhouse meal voucher for the 2017 Hambletonian, two nights lodging and a \$100 clubhouse meal voucher for the 2017 Breeders Crown or two tickets to the 2017 Hospitality Tent at the Little Brown Jug.

* Second Referring Prize- two nights lodging and two banquet tickets for the January 2018 OHHA annual meeting and banquet.

* Third Referring Prize- OHHA jacket and polo shirt (Transportation not included with prize packages)

Information about the fantasy league is outlined below and can also be found on the OHHA website at <http://www.ohha.com/fantasy-stable>. Be sure to share this information with your friends and acquaintances to promote this fun and exciting opportunity that will bring fans to the races this summer!

- Open to any individual who has not owned a Standardbred that has raced in the last two years. Fractional ownership of less than 5% does not count as ownership for this contest.
- Each stable will consist of 6 horses. Three of the horses can be of any age but must have raced at an Ohio racetrack in 2017. The other three horses must be Ohio Sired two-year-olds. To assist you in choosing your horses, we will have a list of horses who have made starts in Ohio along with lists of two-year-old horses that are nominated to various stake races in Ohio. Those lists will be posted at www.ohha.com/fantasy-stable. Stable owners can choose from either gait.
- This is not a "draft", the same horse can be owned by multiple stables.

Continued on page 7

Ohio Represents at USHWA

Emily Hay

The USHWA (United States Harness Writers Association) / Dan Patch Awards Banquet was held in Las Vegas on February 26, at the Planet Hollywood Hotel to celebrate the 2016 race season. Despite the cooler temps in Vegas that weekend, there was a lot to celebrate; Groom of the Year, President's Award, Horse of the Year, Dash Winner, Driver of the Year and many more. The Banquet attendance was estimated at 600 people. Each guest received a reusable gym bag and key chain from Hoosier Park, a glass from USHWA, a Midwest Harness magazine and USHWA magazine.

The hosts for the evening included Roger Huston, Heather Wilder, Emily Gaskin and Heather Vitale. The guests were dressed in their best evening gowns and suits. It was a Vegas style banquet with all the shimmer



*Emily Hay with David Miller.
Photo by Emily Hay.*

Continued on page 8

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

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From Your Executive Director

Renée Mancino

Breed in Ohio

For the third straight year Ohio topped the list for number of mares bred to Ohio Registered Stallions as reported by the 2017 United States Trotting Association's official Registrar's Report. Ohio has been #1 in mares bred to Ohio stallions for the third year, nationwide in 2014, 2015, and 2016. In 2014, 2,615 mares were bred to Ohio Stallions, 2015 saw 2,478 mares bred, and 2016 mares bred was 2,463. In 2013 Ohio was in second place behind Pennsylvania by 364 mares bred and ahead of Indiana by 236 mares bred.

Ohio has a large grass-roots statewide racing system. From 109 Registered Ohio Stallions breeding mares, Ohio provides opportunity at every level for those foals to make money. With the upper tier, Ohio Sires Stakes Program horses, the elite race at the pari-mutuel racetracks for a minimum guaranteed \$40,000 per divisional leg, with \$50,000 Consolations and \$250,000 Championship Finals. The middle tier Buckeye Stallion Series, new for this year, provides guaranteed \$12,500 divisional legs and \$40,000 Championship Finals. The lower level Ohio Fair Stakes provide estimated base purses of \$7,000 per divisional leg per fair and guaranteed \$25,000 Fair Stakes Finals. In Ohio, there are 67 racing fairs that race one to five days each. Added into those programs are assorted Feature Races at the pari-mutuel racetracks and fairs with preference for Ohio Sired horses and purses from \$10,000 and up at fairs like, Darke County, Delaware County, Fayette County, Shelby County, Allen County, Champaign County, and Wayne County.

2017 is the first year for payment of Breeder's Awards in Ohio. For two years the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association discussed putting Breeder's Awards in place to bolster the Ohio racing program and attract breeders to Ohio. The original intent was for the Breeder's Awards to integrate the Ohio Standardbred Development Commission and Standardbred Development Fund, with the program's addition into the Ohio Revised Code Racing Law. A Final Program and legislation was approved by the OHHA Board in late 2015 and the OHHA sought a Legislative Sponsor late 2015 and early 2016.

However, OHHA lobbyists advised that even with an active sponsor and a clear path to approval, the chance of passage and enactment in 2016 was about eighty-five percent due to an election year, "Lame Duck" legislative session, with only a five-percent increase on potential passage in 2017. Facing the reality that optimistically there would be no final Breeder's Awards legislation in place until at least 2018, the OHHA Board changed gears and took on the task to privatize the Breeder's Awards.

The modification to privatize was considered, discussed, and ratified in the April 2016 OHHA Board Meeting. A steering Committee was formed from the Executive Board, Fair Committee and Breeder's Section. The legislation was tweaked to remove the Standardbred Development Commission and Development Fund integration and a process to administer the program was developed by the OHHA office.



With that process complete the Steering Committee returned to the OHHA Board in July with a final Breeder's Award program for consideration. The OHHA Board unanimously approved the Ohio Breeder's Award Program as presented by the Steering Committee in the July 2016 Board Meeting.

Privatizing the Breeder's Awards program versus seeking legislative integration enabled the Association to pay the first year of Breeder's Awards by the first quarter of 2017 for two and three-year-olds that raced in Ohio stakes races in 2016 forward by age and division. Legislative enactment would have backed up that process at least two years with payment of Breeder's Awards not likely to have occurred prior to 2019 and any ability to apply payment to foals born retroactively would have been in question as multi-tiered legislation would have been more difficult to bring forward, explain, and obtain passage on.

Complete details on the Final program were provided in the OHHA's September 2016 Buckeye Horsemen's magazine. For all divisions, the award earned by each horse as calculated is based on the purse dollars earned by that horse in Ohio stakes races each year compared to the total purse dollars earned by all the horses in its division in Ohio stakes races that year that are eligible to earn breeder's awards, expressed as a percentage. That percentage is then multiplied by the total dollars that are allocated to breeder's awards for the horses in that division, with the result rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Having compiled the 2016 earnings information for all the horses that earned Ohio Stakes money from the events outlined above, the following chart provides the compiled summary data.

2016 Division	Total Stake purses raced for in 2016	Total Horses raced in 2016	Number of horses that received Breeders Awards	Percent of starters that earned Breeders Awards	Breeders Awards paid out for 2016 by Division
2FT	\$1,895,558	137	111	81%	\$124,651
2CT	\$1,838,537	117	101	86%	\$124,814
2FP	\$2,167,983	167	135	81%	\$124,586
2CP	\$2,509,336	202	155	77%	\$124,298
2-Year-Old Totals	\$8,411,414	623	502	81%	\$498,349
3FT	\$1,542,553	98	85	87%	\$124,721
3CT	\$1,679,080	104	85	82%	\$124,752
3FP	\$1,777,800	127	100	79%	\$124,573
3CP	\$1,685,819	118	96	81%	\$124,691
3-Year-Old Totals	\$6,685,252	447	366	82%	\$498,737
All totals	\$15,096,666	1,070	868	81%	\$997,086

For Ohio Standardbred Horses by an Ohio Standardbred stallion born from 2013 to 2016 all are eligible to earn Breeder's Awards. Foals born in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 are eligible for Breeder's Awards without their dams being registered. Beginning in 2016 forward, the dam bred must be registered with the OHHA Breeder's Awards program by December 31st of

Get to Know Your Directors- Don "Skip" Hoovler

by Regina Mayhugh



Skip Hoovler, of Pataskala, Ohio is an Advisory Committee Member on the OHHA Board of Directors. Hoovler is serving his thirty-third year on the Board. From 1989-1993, Hoovler served as President and has worked on every OHHA committee at one time or other throughout his years on the board.

Harness racing has been a part of Hoovler's life for forty-nine years. He and his wife Tammy have been active in both breeding and racing. "I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the horse racing industry for over thirty years and I am still excited and interested in seeing our business grow and prosper," shared Hoovler.

Being awarded an Ohio Horse of the Year award is a huge accomplishment for anyone in the business. Hoovler has had the opportunity to be honored with not only one Ohio Horse of the Year divisional winner, but three. Medoland Don (Nobleland Sam - Tammy L Tup - Billy Dart) won the 2-Year-Old Pacing Colt award in 2000. Medoland Miracle (Striking Sahbra - Charming Sahbra Arnie Almahurst) was the 2002 2-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year and Northmedo Tam (Stand Forever - Dazzle Dart - Billy Dart) took home the honors for 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly in 2004.

Horsemen always have a favorite or two that comes through the barn. Hoovler's three award winner horses made the list of Hoovler's stable stars or favorite horses, along with Medoland Carter and Honest Skipper. One of Hoovler's most memorable horse moments was "the thrill of realizing that we owned one of the great horses in Ohio, Medoland Sam," stated Hoovler.

Besides horses, Hoovler is active in his community. He is a member of the Pataskala Chamber of Commerce. He has participated in the Pataskala United Methodist Church Building Campaign and has

volunteered time working with tax issues for the Southwest Licking Schools. Due to his various volunteer work and contributions in his community, Hoovler was awarded the 2006 John Stevens Humanitarian Award. "Because of my respect for Dr. Stevens, to receive any award in memory of him is a great honor," shared Hoovler.

Like all horsemen, Hoovler has dreams for the harness racing industry. "My dream is to create a statewide political base to help educate the legislature as to the economic value of horse racing by making sure that politicians understand the jobs and agricultural opportunities (green space) that horse racing creates," shared Hoovler. He also hopes to be able to develop a relationship with Ohio's racino partners that will regenerate the public awareness of the harness racing industry.



Hoovler shares about the photo above- "This is of Medoland Partner going back to the Winners Circle at Hoosier Park. Two interesting things. The driver is 19 year old Tim Tetrick. The purse was \$30,000 and it was the biggest race of his career to that point. Also, there is a rainbow directly behind the horse and driver (see the variety of shading in the sky). Tammy thought that was a sign from her father, Ted Foor, who actually loved the horses and got us started in the business."

Cunmulaj and Ebersole Win OHHA Groom Appreciation Awards

Congratulations to the Dawn Cunmulaj and Logan Ebersole for winning the first two OHHA Groom Appreciation awards. The OHHA is recognizing grooms for their hard work and dedication twice during a meet at each of the four Ohio tracks, presenting them with a \$200 Visa gift card award. Grooms are nominated by trainers through the OHHA track representatives. Each nominated groom will be entered into a drawing and presented with their award in the track's winner's circle.

Dawn Cunmulaj has been a groom since 1987. She works at Miami Valley Gaming, Scioto Downs and Hollywood at Dayton Raceway.

"She is the hardest working, most dedicated worker I've ever had. Her life is horses. She has never taken

a vacation in the thirty years we've been together. The best part is, she is my wife!" - Sherif Cunmulaj.

From Northfield Park, Logan Ebersole has been a groom since 2015.

"Logan is instrumental in the success of Like Old Times. He has traveled with her and worked his college coursework around her schedule. He is currently helping Donny get her back to the races along with three other young horses and aged trotter Master Wheels." - Don McKirgan

Contact Brett Merkle (Miami Valley Gaming, Scioto Downs, Hollywood at Dayton Raceway) or Amy Hollar (Northfield Park) for more information on nominating your grooms!



Executive Director from page 2

the year of breeding.

For mares bred in 2016 with foals of 2017 and thereafter, the horse must also be born in the State of Ohio and the dam must reside in the State of Ohio during the year of foaling for a continuous period that is not less than one hundred eighty-seven (187) days. The contiguous residency period is subject to exception for acts of God, medical emergency, or participation in an out-of-state public sale for a period of up to fourteen days. The exception must be reported and approved to provide the exception for the short-term absence.

For foals of 2014, 2015, and 2016 the numbers should be like those above on payout. For foals of 2017 the number of mares registered in the Breeder's Award program for the 2016 breeding year is approximately 997. With 2,463 mares bred to Ohio Stallions in 2016, resident Ohio mares totaled 2,015 of that total number bred nationwide, 49% of those resident Ohio mares registered for Breeder's Awards. With foals of 2017 forward the Breeder's Awards paid out should increase as the formula for receipt remains the same. Upon satisfaction of the program's requirements, an Award will be based on the purse dollars earned by a horse in Ohio stakes races each year compared to the total purse dollars earned by all the horses in its division in Ohio stakes

races that year that are eligible to earn breeder's awards, expressed as a percentage. With 49% of the resident mares bred in 2016 eligible at this point, there is already less than half the total number eligible for Awards versus the grandfathered-in years. That coupled with the current Board's position to leave funding levels static should result in larger Breeder's Award checks going forward.

Beginning in 2016 forward, the dam bred must be registered with the OHHA Breeder's Awards program by December 31st of the year of breeding.

The individual checks for the horses that are summarized in the chart started to go out the second week of March. Due to multiple-mare ownership, in total there will be more than 500 checks issued to Breeders of Ohio Standardbred race-horses. Of those checks they range in total from the minimum \$53 amount to a maximum of \$44,000 to one Breeder. Eighteen Breeders received checks for over \$10,000 with one-hundred and seventy Breeders receiving checks for amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 each. In looking over the summary data the most amazing thing appears to be that there are huge number of Breeders that would most

certainly be classified as "boutique" breeding "homebred" horses, where they own and breed one or two mares total that remain at their residence location year-round. With the number of mares bred to Ohio Stallions still number one in the nation, multiple tiers of racing available for every level that may be produced, and a lot of smaller boutique breeders, Ohio's Breeding industry is on a healthy track with Breeder's Award monies being distributed to help fund those Breeding in Ohio.

Darke County Horsemen Celebrate 2016 Racing Season

Mandy Jones

Darke County Harness Horseman's Association (DCHHA) held its annual awards banquet and auction on Saturday March 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Elk's Lodge in Greenville, Ohio. There was a catered buffet style dinner with an Italian theme provided by Michael James Catering. At least 140 people including DCHHA members, nonmembers, OHHA director and representatives, county commissioner, former State Representative Jim Buchy, and local fair board members were in attendance to enjoy the evening.

The evening started by recognizing Mr. Jim Buchy for all his continued support for our organization and throughout the state of Ohio regarding the horse racing industry. After dinner, local horses, trainers, and owners were acknowledged for their accomplishments throughout the year. Two-year-old colt pacer went to Diamond JJ owned by Mandy Jones and trained by Brian Jones. Two-year-old filly pacer went to Dali's Lady owned by Jason Young and trained by Steve Wiemer. Two-year-old colt trotter went to Magic Vacation and three-year-old colt pacer went to Donald Doc, both owned and trained by Ryan Miller. Two-year-old filly trotter went to Bashful Strike, owned and trained by Bruce Walls. Three-year-old filly pacer went to Wheels in

the Sky owned by Tim Reck and Ronny Richards and trained by Tim Reck. Three-year-old filly trotter went to Dominating Dora owned and trained by Ron Wulber. Aged horse pacer went to Northwestern Dreams owned by Cindy Austen and Steve Livingston. Aged horse trotter went to Massive Storm owned by Don Bolyard and trained by Jeff Bolyard. Aged mare trotter went to I'm a Pop Star owned by Beth Simmons and trained by Dave Brumbaugh. Once the awards were received, Dalton Walls presented a painting of Magic Vacation painted by Ann Lufkin to Ryan and Stacey Miller. Magic Vacation is the current rack record holder at Scioto Downs and a national seasons leader on a 5/8th mile track for a two-year-old gelding trotter. Congratulations to all the connections that received awards this year!

Following the awards ceremony, an auction both live and silent took place. Proceeds from the auction go into the general fund to help with purse money for overnight fair races, maintenance of track and facility, and anywhere else it's needed. Several items were donated while some were purchased at a discounted price. Items in the auction ranged from breedings, farrier services, baked goods, restaurant gift certificates, and horse equipment to racetrack merchandise, coupons to feed stores, and handmade décor. Due to all the wonderful sponsors and donors, we were able to have a successful auction. A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors!



(L-R) Mandy Jones, Emily Hay with Colton, Jim Buchy, Tabby Canarr and Ulrika Karlsson.

Everyone is welcome to join the organization and/or attend the annual banquet. We hope to see everyone at next year's banquet. Our upcoming spring matinee is Sunday May 21, 2017 at noon so mark your calendars!

OHIO'S BREEDING FARMS: HAGEMEYER FARMS

BY REGINA MAYHUGH

Miss Windale Started It All for Hagemeyer Farms

Seventy years ago, a family in southeastern Ohio purchased a farm that later would specialize in breeding Standardbred race horses. In the beginning the farm consisted of a variety of commodities from pond building to raising chickens. Maynard Hagemeyer purchased the farm with his father in 1947. Unfortunately, the following year his father passed, but Maynard and his wife Stella worked to keep the farm going. In 1957 Miss Windale became the first Standardbred mare purchased by the Hagemeyer family. She produced some nice foals that introduced the family to harness racing and started the tradition of Hagemeyer Farms.

Hagemeyer Farms is a fourth-generation farm in Clarksville, Ohio. The farm offers equine breeding, foal care and boarding. There are four barns with over sixty stalls that are utilized for boarding and a half mile training farm track. The farm uses a local veterinarian who ultrasounds the mares for breeding accuracy and they are proud to offer high conception rates. Foals are closely monitored by cameras and the four generations of experience keeps the farm running. They breed about one hundred mares (including both on-farm and semen shipped) and expect to foal between thirty-five and forty at the farm.

While Miss Windale was the first mare of the farm, Billy Jo Byrd was the first stud that the family purchased which began the family's breeding operation. When Maynard and Stella managed the farm, it became a family affair with family members holding various roles in the industry. Maynard was a director of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and was the first President of Harness Horse Youth Foundation. Stella was secretary of Ohio Colt Racing Association (OCRA) for twenty-eight years and assisted with managing the farm. Their four children became involved in the daily activities of the farm and later became involved in the racing operation as grooms, trainers and drivers. Their son Mel made harness racing a career, working as Program Director and General Manager of Lebanon Raceway.

The current farm is in the hands of the third and fourth generation of Hagemeyers, Mel's son Scott and his daughter Lyndsay. For over twenty years, Scott Hagemeyer has been involved as a groom, trainer and breeder. He has been an OHHA Board Breeder Director since 2015. Lyndsay will be attending The Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine in the fall.

Scott Hagemeyer chose to carry on the tradition of Standardbred breeding business because of his love of the farm. "I chose to stay in this business because I really enjoy what I do," Hagemeyer shares. "It is very rewarding to see the babies born, raised and successfully race." Hagemeyer also enjoys interacting with his many friends at the tracks and fairs. Watching the foals run and play in the field is another rewarding part of his job. "No matter how stressful of a day we deal with, seeing a baby horse jump, kick and run like the world has no worries always makes my soul feel good," Hagemeyer explains. The foals are also Lyndsay Hagemeyer's favorite part of the job, as she enjoys foal delivery time. "I don't mind the sleepless nights because I find it very rewarding to see a horse I delivered and took care of make it to the races," Lyndsay shares. "After vet school I look forward to doing a lot of foaling and reproduction work at the farm and locally."

Over the years, many horses have come and gone from the farm, but one of Scott's most recent favorites has been Myell's Rockstar (World of Rocknroll - Myell - The Panderosa). "He was bred, raised and started his training right here at our farm. I was very proud to see him win the 3-Year-Old Colt Pace at the Ohio Fairs Championship final at Dayton in 2016," says Hagemeyer. Another recent favorite has been Sharp Lookin Finale (Look Sharp - Zim And Torre - The Panderosa). This colt was of the final crop of the farm's stallion Look Sharp (Abercrombie - Armbr Ruby - Most Happy Fella). Sharp Lookin Finale had a successful year in 2016 as a 2-year-old. "We were proud that he won a division of the Parshall Futurity at Darke County Fair and qualified in points for the Ohio Fairs Championship final. Several generations of my family watched him all season," recalls Hagemeyer.

Like with any business, there are challenges to managing a breeding farm. Hagemeyer shares that his biggest challenge is getting their clients to pay in a timely fashion. "Most of our clients are very appreciative of the dedicated efforts we put into their horses and show their appreciation by being attentive to their invoice," says Hagemeyer. "Unfortunately, we have a few clients that are very challenging to work with and are consistently delinquent with their board bills. For a small business like ours, the balance between future investments and cash flow can be difficult to balance when we have clients that do not pay their way."

Like other Ohio farms, the addition of the racinos and associated VLT revenue has given Hagemeyer Farms a boost. "These have given us a lifeline that we desperately needed to keep our focus on Standardbreds," Hagemeyer shares. "We had started to transition out of the harness racing industry in 2010, focusing on pleasure and recreation horses. With the enormous boost from VLT legislation, we are proud to continue our family's history in harness racing." Miss Windale would be proud that the babies she raised sixty years ago started a tradition for this family and has kept harness racing in the blood four generations later.



March OSRC Meeting Recap will be included in the May issue.

Ohio County Fairs

Ohio County Fair History

Have you ever gone to a fair, noticed the old building and wondered just how old the fair and its facilities are? The grassroots of harness racing is at the fairs and each fair has some unique historic stories. Eight fairs were highlighted in last month's crossword puzzle: Ashland, Muskingum, Butler, Defiance, Wayne, Allen, Fairfield and Medina counties.

Ashland County Fair dropped racing from the program in 1954 due to low attendance and brought racing back in 1962. The first chartered Ashland County Fair was held in 1851. In 1923, a 1,000 seat grandstand and racetrack were built. In 1938, the grandstand was transformed to an 1,800 seat grandstand and a track was built inside the harness horse race track that was used for dog racing and midget cars. In 1954, harness racing was dropped due to a decrease in attendance and was replaced by stock car races, but harness racing returned in 1962 and the former stock car track was enlarged to a half mile oval harness racing track. The track was regraded and new bleachers were added to the grandstand. Pari-mutual betting was added in 1978. The west end of the grandstand was enclosed in 1994 and that year Ashland County Fair saw a record attendance.

During the Civil War, the **Muskingum** County fairgrounds was leased to the Ohio Militia and named Camp Goddard, in honor of General C.B. Goodard of Ohio Militia. The only years the Muskingum County Fair, one of the oldest fairs, did not operate was during the Civil War. After the attack on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina President Lincoln called for seventy-five thousand volunteers. Most of the Ohio volunteers were sent to Columbus for training, but Governor Dennison authorized additional camps throughout the state, including Zanesville, Ohio for a more efficient process of training the volunteers.

Butler County Fair is no longer racing, but at one time it was a focal point for Thoroughbred racing and Standardbred harness racing after a 3,000 seat concrete grandstand (one of the first of its kind) was constructed following a fire that destroyed the wooden one in 1913.

The first Butler County Fair was held October 13-14, 1836. In 1874, a half-mile race track was constructed. Later in 1955, the Butler County allowed the Hamilton Racing Association to host a series of race meets at their fairgrounds. The races had to meet the laws of the Ohio State Racing Commission and the United States Trotting Association. The track became known as Hamilton Raceway and lasted until 1976, when the association moved to the Warren County Fairgrounds.

It was a tradition for the racing to began after dinner at the **Defiance** County Fair. There was a free act in the center field between races and after the races a foot race took place. The first Defiance County Fair was held in Hicksville, Ohio in 1877. The association was called The Northwestern Ohio and Northeastern Indiana District Agricultural Association. Families would come out to the fair, tie their horses around the track, then enjoy the fair. They would later place table clothes on the ground to enjoy a picnic dinner. Following the dinner, the races would begin. Besides the free act that entertained in the center field there was also a band. The Hicksville Men's Band, The Hart's Girl Band and an out of town band that was led by Seth Nofsinger of Sherwood performed.

Allen County Fair's half-mile track, also known as Lima Driving Park, was considered among the best tracks in the U.S. Besides racing horses, the track hosted automobile and motorcycle races. Dan Patch, and other legend-



Photo from Allen County Fair Website

ary harness horses in the country, raced there from the early 1890's until the last fair at that location. Dan Patch raced in 1903 and set a track record of 2:04. He arrived in Lima in his own private railroad car. The race track that is at the present fairgrounds now was modeled after the

Delaware County Fair track. The track was built in 1952 and in 1958 a 2,000 seat grandstand was built.

Wayne County Fairgrounds was visited by Twentieth Century Fox in 1934, looking for a high-wheeled racing sulky. The film company was in search of the sulkies for an upcoming movie production "David Harum" to use in the harness horse racing scene that would portray harness racing during the 1880's to 1890's eras. After searching in New York, it was suggested they try Ohio, the heartland of harness racing. They were sent to Marion, Ohio to Houghton Sulky Company, who built them a replica (the one Will Rogers rode in the movie). They then learned of two sulkies that were owned by Edison A. Rickabaugh in Wooster. One of the sulkies had been raced in Hollywood, CA in 1888 with a grey trotting horse named Newton B, owned by W.P. Snyder, a banker in the Wooster area. Both sulkies were stored in Rickabaugh's barn at the Wayne County Fairgrounds and were only being used during historic events. The sulkies were then sold and relocated to Hollywood, CA where they can only be seen now while watching the racing scene in the 1934 Fox Film's version of "David Harum".

Harness racing has always been a popular event at the **Fairfield** County Fair where the trotting record is held by Bingham 2:02.4 from 2005 and pacing record by Goin Like Sam 1:59 in 1998. The first Fairfield County Fair was held in 1851 in Lancaster, Ohio the second week of October. The purses in 1868 for the fastest trotting horse, mare or gelding were \$50 for first, \$25 for second and \$10 for third placing. In 1909 a new wooden grandstand was built that seated 500 people. Between 1910 and 1916 three new race horse barns were built, replacing barns that were lost in two fires that occurred in 1908.

Medina County Fair had its first race track constructed in 1855. The first race track was a ¼ mile track where each horse ran the course alone and the times were recorded by judges. The winner was the horse with the best time. In 1878, following the fair moving to another location, a ½ mile track was built that cost \$1,000.

Try your hand at more Ohio fair history on page 7. Answers will be revealed in the May issue of OHHA News.

Congratulations Ryan Stahl

Ryan Stahl won his 4,000th race of his career with This Baby Rocks at Northfield Park on March 20th.

He he pictured with his wife Nichole and Michael Carter, Northfield Park Assistant Director of Mutuels.



Photo by JJ Foto

OHHA Sends Condolences

to the friends and family of William Kraner, Sam McKeen and John Stewart. Full obituaries can be found on the OHHA website www.ohha.com/obituaries.

Ohio Fair History

Across

1. The first track to get lighting in 1929, allowing fans who worked during the day to enjoy harness racing.
2. This fair disguised the races by calling them "Speed Trials" because harness racing was associated with brutality and gambling.
3. During WWII the end of the war was announced during the races at the fair. It looked like confetti was flying in the grandstands when fans threw

Chose the Ohio county that matches the clue. Answers and more details on these fairs will be featured in the next issue of OHHA News.

their food ration tickets and food stamps into the air.

4. Various prizes were given during the fair for premiums, including a \$50 sewing machine presented to an equestrian competitor was that "purchased by the young men of the county".

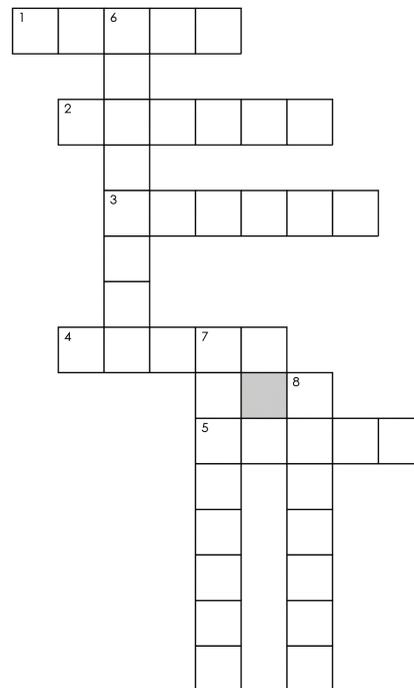
5. After hosting a joint county fair for many years, this county held its first county fair in 1840. A local trotting association was formed then they built a race-track and grandstand. They held racing until 1997.

Down

6. One of the oldest fairs, the first fair was held in 1849. It was once called the Boston Fair.

7. Over 8,000 people attended the races in 1899, when the famous outlaw Frank Williams started the races. Hint, not a county name.

8. Bobby Burns and Major Mallow are buried in the infield of this fair's racetrack.



Fantasy League from page 2

- If you pre-register by May 1st, you will receive \$20 in Pathway credit from the United States Trotting Association so you can research horses you are interested in having in your stable. After you preregister, you will receive an email from the USTA with a contact number which will create a link to your Pathway account. Pathway credits will expire on May 31st, 2017.
- Entries must be received at the OHHA office by 11:59:59 pm ET May 31st, 2017. All entrants will receive a fantasy stable t-shirt.
- The stable name you choose and the horses you choose will be made public, but not your name or other personal information.
- Stable owners will receive updates via the OHHA website and the Ohio Harness Racing Fans Facebook page on the first of each month. Stable owners will also receive information via email.
- Stable owners will be encouraged to use a virtual stable to inform them when their horses are in to race. Instructions how to set that up can be found at www.ohha.com/fantasy-stable.
- Stable owners will be afforded owner perks, such as backstretch tours and starting gate rides, subject to availability.
- Stable earnings will include all earnings of those horses beginning on July 1st, 2017 and ending at midnight December 31, 2017. Winners are determined by total stable earnings.
- Entry blanks can be found online at www.ohha.com/fantasy-stable. The forms can be submitted through the website, submitted via email to sschroeder@ohha.com or faxed to 614-221-8726.
- Only one entry will be accepted per individual and e-mail address. No phoned in entries are allowed. Money earned ties will be settled first by number of wins and second by a random draw conducted by OHHA. Anything not covered in these rules will be ruled on by OHHA and their decision will be final. Contestants, by entering the contest, agree to be bound by the above rules and regulations.
- Prizes for the top three money earning stables will be awarded at the OHHA annual meeting and banquet in January 2018.
 - * First Prize - \$2,500 cash prize, one share in a fractional ownership stable that is sanctioned by the USTA for 2018 and two tickets to the OHHA awards banquet in January of 2018.
 - * Second Prize - \$2,000 cash prize, one share in a fractional ownership stable that is sanctioned by the USTA for 2018 and two tickets to the OHHA awards banquet in January of 2018.
 - * Third prize - \$1,500 cash, one share in a fractional ownership stable that is sanctioned by the USTA for 2018 and two tickets to the OHHA awards banquet in January of 2018.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association reserves all rights to modify, alter, amend or cancel this promotion in their discretion. At the time of entry, all participants agree to adhere to, and will act in accordance with, all Fantasy League listed terms and conditions. Any alleged violations of the Fantasy League Terms and Conditions will be investigated. The interpretation of the terms and conditions and any consequences or penalties will be final and binding and shall be decided upon by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association in their sole and complete discretion.

Thank You to our 2017 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors OHHA Pacesetters
as of 3/16/17 (in alphabetical order)

Carl Atley	William Rufenacht
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P.A.C.E.R.

Ohio horse racing received great support from Governor Kasich and Ohio legislators with the enactment of House Bill #386 (HB386).

Help support those legislators who support us.

Donate by sending a personal check, LLC check* or money order to:
P.A.C.E.R.
850 Michigan Ave.,
Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215-1920

Include employer information and type of business.

All P.A.C.E.R. donations go to a candidate's campaign funds.

The OHHA offices receive calls every week from state legislators asking for campaign donations as they attempt to raise campaign financing throughout the year.

A special Thank You to those who donate!

*Corporate checks are not acceptable for PAC donations. LLC checks only are acceptable for PAC donations.

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Ronald Oldfield
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Dayle Roof
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Ohio Represents at USHWA from cover

and shine. The best speech goes to the "Rap Speech" given about Always Be Miki. Many of the speakers told interesting stories that were fun and educational.

Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA) had several directors and spouses attend due to Hooiser Park / Dan Patch being a sponsor. It was nice to see a supportive turn out on behalf of OHHA as well. Many Grand Circuit drivers were also in attendance including Mike Wilder, Tim Tetrick, David Miller, John Campbell and Brett Miller.

One thing that I brought home is how much the harness drivers give back to the fans. While in Vegas if you wanted Emmitt Smith, Mike Tyson or Pete Rose's autographs you had to pay for an autograph/picture with them. In the



Steve McCoy poses with a legend.

harness world our drivers, who little ones look up to as their heroes, never hesitate to give an autograph or stop for a photo! Thank you, drivers for making harness racing special for the fans!

Vegas was fun time for all and I was happy to represent Ohio in a special night recognizing horsemen across the nation!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OHIO'S USHWA HONOREES

President's Award

New Vocations Race Horse Adoption Program

Lew Barasch Breakthrough Award

Allison Conte

Dash Winning Driver

Aaron Merriman

Smallsreed Award for Excellence in Photography

Mark Hall



Tim Bojarski (C) presents Jennifer Daniels (L) & Winnie Nemeth (R) with President's Award.



(L-R) Kris Hinchcliff, Patti Clark, Allison Conte, Collin Conte, Carl Conte Jr. poses for Lew Barasch Breakthrough award.



Dan Leary (L) presents Smallsreed Award to Mark Hall (2nd from right). Also pictured Joshua Green and Kim Rinker.

Photos by Mark Hall, USTA

Horsin' Around With....

Trainer: Jessica Millner



Jessica lives in Litchfield, Ohio where she is currently training 22 horses.

How long have you been training and do you train full time or part time? I have been training horses full time for about 5 years.

How did you get started? I've been in the horse business my whole life. My parents grew up in the business as well as my sister, brother and I.

Share a favorite or memorable horse(s) that you have worked with. I have two favorite horses, Maddys Cam because he was the first horse I owned and Elephants Can Fly because he was the first horse I trained. They are both retired at my home.

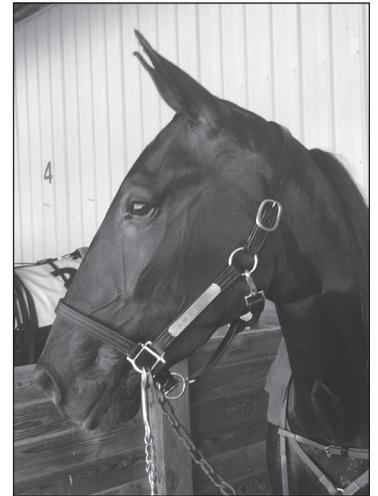
Tell us about Wegoferdaprize. Wegoferdaprize was a late bloomer. As a two-year-old we knew he had potential but he didn't want to behave. It was about half way through his three-year-old year that he turned around and ended up winning his last eight races, including the Ohio Sires Stake Final and Ohio breeders Stake then received the Three-Year-Old Trotter of the Year award in Ohio.

How can horsemen do a better job of sharing the sport and increase fans? I think one of the best ways to promote the business is by word of mouth. Everyone has family or friends outside the horse business, tell them about harness racing and encourage them to come to the races and maybe even invest.

What is your favorite food? Pizza.

Any other hobbies besides racing horses? I guess I could say my hobby is shopping.

Share something fun about yourself. When I was a child I received the Littlest Groom Award from Pompano Park because I would go in and help my parents in the barn when I didn't have school.



Gofer at the Delaware County Fair

OHHA Favorite Friday

Do you follow OHHA on Facebook? Every Friday a new topic is posted for fans to contribute. One topic listed was name your favorite trainer. Jessica was the fan favorite the week that was posted, receiving the most nominations. Be sure to follow and contribute to Friday Favorite on the OHHA Facebook page **OhioHarnessHorsemensAssociation**. Your answer just might be featured in one of our publications! Thank you for joining in!

February 24th Topic- Favorite Ohio Fair

Welston is my favorite, nice people and always do good there.

- Allen Woolums

Burton fair oldest in Ohio, like to watch the races at Canfield sitting above the track.

- Barbara Sherman Schuele

Knox County

- Aaron Knittle

Van Wert! Great races plus thoroughbred races on labor day!!!

- Aaron Knittle

The Great Darke County Fair

- Lyndsay Hagemeyer

- Amanda Condit Allender

-Kay Mote

Upcoming Sales / Events

May 8th- Blooded Horse Sale
Delaware County Fairgrounds

May 21- Upper Sandusky Matinee
Wyandot County Fairgrounds

May 27- Hicksville Matinee
Defiance County Fairgrounds

Are Those Piggies or Horses?

Looks like the boys at Marvin Raber Farm have been having a good time! Jiggin Joe (middle) with his buddies Action B (left) and Medoland Bolt (right).

Photo submitted by Paul Stolfo.





Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
850 Michigan Avenue, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1920



Regina's Equine Spotlight

Editor in Chief (T, 3, 1:56.0F \$349,736) was born in 1985, sired by Midland Acres's Speed in Action, bred by Bonnie Huber, Kathryn Richardson and Alvin Tolin. Linda Cherry nominated Editor in Chief for this month's spotlight. Editor in Chief was trained by Cherry's father, Don Cherry, for Jeff Stout Stable in 1987 and Linda Cherry was his groom. "He was rather small, but loved to trot and was fun to take care of," Cherry recalled.

Cherry shared his many 2-year-old achievements, "He was an Ohio Sire Stake Champion, national seasons leader on a 5/8 track, Ohio Breeders Champion and World Champion." He won the \$120,000 Charlie Hill race as well.

He was purchased at \$7,000 as a yearling but his earnings as a 2-year old were over \$110,000. In 1987, Editor in Chief had fourteen starts, eleven of those were wins and two were seconds with earnings of \$110,173. As a 3-year-old Editor in Chief had nineteen starts with eight being wins, three seconds and three

thirds and earnings of \$239,563. Cherry shared his time at the Delaware County Fair Ohio Breeders Championship, "his combined time for two heats at Delaware was 3:58.4, which beat Mack Lobell's combined time a year earlier."

After racing, Editor in Chief stood in New Jersey in 1989 and in Illinois from 1990-94. Forty-one registered foals are listed with the US Trotting Association, twenty-one colts and twenty-one fillies, with combined earnings of \$923,497. He was later exported in 1996 to Norway.



Photo submitted by Linda Cherry.

NAME THAT HORSE!

Knockemstiff Nicki: Named because even as a baby she knocked people out and hurt a few. I knew this filly personally.

- Amanda Dawn Sams

Miassis Dragon: Jim Johnson's horse. Most of the time she lived up to her name.

- Karon Compston

Lookinforadventure: It fit when he was younger. Love him!

- Kim Carothers

Tabby Talks Alot: My best name choice yet.

- Jennifer Brown

Have a fun name to share and maybe a story behind it? Comment on the Facebook link, call the office or send an email to rmayhugh@ohha.com. Thank you for sharing!